

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: Student Support and Safe and Healthy Schools Services

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education delegate to the Commissioner of Education the authority to approve or disapprove an alternate plan for delivery of driver education at Spaulding High School?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education delegate to the Commissioner of Education the authority to approve or disapprove an alternate plan for delivery of driver education at Spaulding High School.

STATUTORY AND RULE-BASED AUTHORITY: 16 V.S.A. § 1045 and State Board of Education Rule 2350.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Spaulding proposes to offer classroom driver education instruction during the school day, and in-vehicle instruction outside the school day. The DOE's consultant for driver and traffic safety education will provide technical assistance to Spaulding, will review Spaulding's proposed plans, and will make recommendations to the Commissioner. Rule 2350 states that "a driver education program shall include an approved driver education course during regular school hours as a part of the offerings of the regular school-day program." Spaulding proposes to offer classroom instruction during the school day and in-vehicle instruction outside the school day, primarily "after school." The proposed plan of operation is not complete enough to support the requested waiver at this time, and receipt of a waiver in August would come too close to the opening of school. Further assurances are necessary to avoid excessive conflicts with after school activities, to assure adequate staffing, and to assure adequate time to provide in-vehicle instruction.

COST IMPLICATIONS: There are no unusual DOE costs associated with this activity. Spaulding anticipates some savings, but this is dependent upon the details of the final plan of operation.

STAFF AVAILABLE: Mark Oettinger, General Counsel; and Lindsay Townsend, Driver and Traffic Safety Education Consultant.